

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON
 Illinois Council on Women and Girls
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes
 February 15th, 2022

A present majority of filled non-ex-officio positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 9 non-ex-officio members present				
Position	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
Ex-Officio Mem.				
Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)	Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton		x	
Ex-Officio (Refugee & Immigrant Services, DHS)	Lilian Jimenez (rep. Grace Hou)		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. on Aging)	Katherine Ostrowski (rep. Paula Basta)		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Human Rights)	Donna Hardy (rep. James Bennett)		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Children & Family Services)	Marla Courts (rep. Marc Smith)		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Healthcare & Fam. Services)	Director Theresa Eagleson		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Pub. Health)	Director Ngozi Ezike			x
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Labor)	Marina Faz-Huppert (rep. Michael Kleinik)		x	
Ex-Officio (State Board of Ed.)	Jaclyn Matthews (Rep. Carmen Ayala)		x	
Ex-Officio (Board of Higher Ed.)	Director Ginger Ostro			x
Ex-Officio (Community College Board)	Natasha Allan (rep. Brian Durham)			x
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)				
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Alexa Rice			x
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Dr. Sharon Latiker			x
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Nikita Richards			x
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Veronica Espina		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)				
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Ines Kutlesa		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Rhonda Thomas			x
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Theresa Forthofer		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Pending			
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)				
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Pending			
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Kaethe Morris Hoffer		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Maaria Mozaffar			x
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Wendy Pollack		x	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)				
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Pending			
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vidhya Prakash		x	

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON

Illinois Council on Women and Girls

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

February 15th, 2022

Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Monique Garcia			X
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Pamela Althoff			X
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)				
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Amina Jaffer		X	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Pending			
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Rochelle Crump		X	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Sylvia Matos-Collins		X	
Rep. of Gov.'s Office Mem.				
Rep. of Gov.'s Office	Dep. Governor Sol Flores			X
Guest (non-member)				
Guest, Representative	Representative Anna Moeller			X
Guest, Senator	Senator Jackie Collins			X
Guest	Ibie Hart			X
Guest	Kelly Fair			X
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Sophie Zerrouki			X
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Jisel Ortiz		X	
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Jasmin Mundi			X
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Leslie Smith		X	
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Eden Soto			X
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Gloria Jen			X
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Ala'a Tamam		X	
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Addison Belhomme		X	
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Wendy Riley-Washington			X

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM
- b. Roll call taken and quorum established

II. Approval of Agenda for 2/15/22 and Minutes from 12/8/21

- a. Agenda
 - i. Motioned by Kaethe Morris Hoffer
 - ii. Seconded by Theresa Eagleson
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. No opposition
 - v. No abstention
- b. Minutes
 - i. Motioned by Donna Hardy
 - ii. Seconded by Ines Kutlesa
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. No opposition
 - v. No abstention

III. Chairperson's Remarks

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton provided an overview of the day's meeting and welcomed members to the first meeting of the year. She announces that today's meeting will feature a

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON

Illinois Council on Women and Girls

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

February 15th, 2022

presentation by Ji-Hye Kim, Executive Director of Kan-Win; Linda Tortolero, Executive Director of Mujeres Latinas en Accion; Radhika Sharma Gordon, Manager of Outreach and Education of Apna Ghar and Kim Fountain, Vice-President of the Center on Halsted. Lt. Governor Stratton also gives special thanks to Amanda Pyron, Executive Director of The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence for her help in bringing together today's speakers and Ines Kutlesa for her continued work as Chair of the Gender-Based Violence committee. Lt. Governor Stratton states today's presentation will be an opportunity for the Council to learn more about the need for expanding culturally competent services for survivors of gender-based violence across Illinois. She notes that though organizations represented today are based in Chicago and Cook County, each has routinely received requests for services from survivors of gender-based violence, especially survivors of color, across Illinois.

IV. New Business

- a. Presentation from The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence
 - i. Lt. Governor Stratton passes it off to Kim Fountain to begin the presentation.
 - ii. Kim Fountain begins the presentation by providing an overview of the organization, Center on Halsted and shares statistics regarding the LGBT community and gender-based violence experienced by LGBT survivors. They bring up the issue of being a part of the small community, where everyone knows you, know your family, your workplace, which means getting help related to being LGBT runs the risk of losing all of these support networks, regardless of legal protections. Kim Fountain states that in terms of being underserved, we need to focus on addressing barriers related to providers and systems to ensure service models take vulnerabilities into account to prevent further harm. They note that trans people and bi-sexual people face complex forms of violence that need to be addressed in both rural and urban areas.
 - iii. Radhika Sharma Gordon introduces herself and provides an overview of the organization Apna Ghar. From Cairo to Sterling, there are immigrants, refugees, international students living in fear, not knowing what their resources are and while there are programs in place that offer domestic violence services, many of these organizations are at a loss providing culturally accessible services, language interpretation, knowledge of immigration law. As an example, Radhika Sharma Gordon describes a situation where in Bloomington there are international employees who bring their spouses, and these women depend on their husbands for economic support. Many of these survivors are not aware of the laws and resources available to them. Radhika Sharma Gordon states that these survivors who often do not speak English, need organizations that will give the same resources and care like an English – speaking survivor, therefore there is a need to invest in hiring a more diverse workforce. She states many of her organization has received multiple requests for mental health services. Radhika Sharma Gordon reminds the Council that domestic violence is the leading cause for traumatic brain injury and one of the causes for post-traumatic stress disorder amongst women and girls. She says that a number of international survivors come to the US on their spouse's work visa and are not allowed to work. These survivors do not know what will happen if they try to leave the person whose visa they depend on for their very presence in the United States. Radhika Sharma Gordon expresses the need for every domestic violence and sexual assault organization to be able to answer the

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON

Illinois Council on Women and Girls

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

February 15th, 2022

question and link survivors with local organizations that can provide them with cultural and linguistic support and assistance.

- iv. Linda Tortolero introduces herself and provides an overview of the organization, Mujeres Latinas en Accion. She proceeds to discuss the importance of providing adequate support to sustain their domestic violence programs and help new providers emerge. Linda Tortolero states approaches to gender-based violence should be community centered and community led. With the current limitations in government and state resources, Linda Tortolero says it is difficult to encourage the development of other service providers across the state. She cites a recommendation from an October 2020 ICJIA Report on how to provide better support for underserved survivors, which was sexual assault providers needed to also have an increase in services about how to provide culturally responsive victim-centered services to first responders, emergency room staff and other law enforcement. Linda Tortolero goes on to address the loss of employees her organizations and others are experiencing. Language barrier is another issue that need to be address.
- v. Ji-Hye Kim introduces herself and provides an overview of the organization, Kan-Win and their efforts to engage their communities in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. In their strategy, Ji-Hye Kim notes that the organization began publishing flyers and ads in variety of Asian languages. In addition, the organization utilized different social media platforms to expand their reach. Ji-Hye Kim says that the organization used WeeChat to communicate with Chinese immigrants and Kan-Win published a website available in four different languages and offered more virtual programing. Ji-Hye Kim provides statistics on the increase in Asian populations across counties in Illinois, citing a concern as to whether local domestic violence organization are equipped to meet the culturally specific needs of survivors of Asian descent.
- vi. Jackie Matthews asks the presenters for examples of partnerships with school districts. She wants to know how districts can be involved, are there examples of community partnerships, and that ISBE recently put out a grant opportunity to support partnerships between school districts and any sort of community organization providing services related to mental health. Are there opportunities for ISBE to amplify successful partnerships through its podcast or social media?
 - 1. Radhika Sharma Gordon replies by saying that ISBE could make sure every ESL program throughout the state is giving out information on the rights of survivors of gender-based violence. She notes a lot of organization are already going into schools.
 - 2. Linda Tortolero states that she and two other members of the council are a part of the Chicago Prevention Alliance. They are trying to get Chicago public schools to work more closely with the sexual assault program that already exist. She states there are no mandates that require schools to work with them but perhaps having funding tied to it will allow for relationships to exist. For suburban districts, there would need to be more support since some may not have the capacity to coordinate with a culturally specific gender-based violence organization.
 - 3. Kim Fountain adds that their organization gets a lot requests for trainings for LGBT content considering how many youth are struggling with their gender identity and sexuality and are often targeted for bullying and violence.

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON

Illinois Council on Women and Girls

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

February 15th, 2022

- vii. Kaethe senses that one of the mandates for this Council that we collectively as a Council speak to the General Assembly and say what important things related to gender-based violence should be motivating the General Assembly. One of the messages that has come through very clearly is both that addressing gender-based violence is addressing multiple systemic overlapping forms of systemic inequality. These are things that cannot be done separately, and nobody should ever think that addressing gender-based violence as something that is distinct from addressing bigotry, xenophobia, transphobia, and anti-black racism. She also states she heard a deep need for more money. One thing she wonders is if there is more to say about what the state could do or model of other states on the issues of staff retention and vicarious trauma suffered by frontline workers who are doing this incredibly important work.
 - 1. Ines thanks Kaethe for her response and states that organizations need more funding to pay their workers just like in any other job. She adds that organizations can't operate with limited funding any longer while continuing to address the increase in demand for services and trying to stabilize the situation while also being able to pay folks what they need to be paid to take the kind of risks associated with these jobs. Ines notes that the last time a major investment was made by the state was in 2009. She states that this was a message that they were trying to get across because they know how important addressing gender-based violence is for the Governor and Lt. Governor.
 - 2. Linda Tortolero expands on the issue of vicarious trauma by stating ICJIA did a pilot study on vicarious trauma which Mujeres Latinas was a part of with other service providers about the effects of vicarious trauma and what the best practices would be for providers. She states that when you are doing culturally specific gender-based violence work, you are dealing with trauma on multiple levels. Many workers coming from these families, have to deal with issues of historical racism, pathway to citizenship, all of which brings baggage. Linda Tortolero states that many of their workers are first generation and that without the adequate support, they cannot be expected to keep doing this at the rates they are currently paid. She says there is a lot to said about honoring the work service providers do and making sure they get the mental support they deserve.
- viii. Lt. Governor Stratton thanks the presenters for their time and states this is why the Council exists, for us to have these important conversations, for advocacy to take place, and for us to have a better understanding for how we can also be a voice for a number of different issues. Lt. Governor Stratton notes that she chairs the Governor's Rural Council and thinks there is a conversation that needs to take place to talk about gender - based violence in small towns, we don't often tie these to these other spaces.
- ix. Lt. Governor gives a quick update on Women's History Month, she notes her team is working on the final touches on the office's plan for March. If members have Women History's Month related events happening, Lt. Governor asks that they share that information with her office.
- b. Committee Updates
 - i. Ines Kutlesa provides an update on the Gender-Based Violence Committee, she states the Know Your Rights series will be starting in March with a date of March 22. In between meetings, the Committee sent an email to the Council requesting

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON

Illinois Council on Women and Girls

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

February 15th, 2022

recommendations for speakers to invite to participate on the campaign. She notes that the Committee is solidifying the final details for the event.

- ii. Cynthia Orizaba provides an update on behalf of Dr. Vidhya Prakash who needed to log off early regarding the Health and Healthcare Committee. Cynthia notes the stakeholders who attended the Health Equity Summit in July received an email for Dr. Prakash to make suggestions and edits to the IDPH Equity Task Force Data Committee Recommendations document.
- iii. Jackie Matthews provides an update on the Academic and Economic Opportunity Committee, Jackie states she has been focusing primarily on supporting the Girl's Committee and their work. She says the A&E Committee is looking forward to the next meeting to refocus and identify the next goals and objectives.
- iv. Gloria Jen provides an update on the Girls' Committee. Gloria states the Committee has been holding bi-weekly meetings and thinking of ways to engage girls from outside the Committee. The Committee has met with representatives from ExceleRate and is looking forward to meeting with Rep. Katie Stuart tomorrow and learn more about the legislative process, while also asking her questions about childcare legislation.

V. Member Updates

- a. Kaethe Morris Hoffer shares her organization is a strong supporter of ending cash bail in Illinois. If anyone is interested in knowing more about why her organization and others support ending cash bail, please reach to Kaethe Morris Hoffer.
- b. Sylvia Matos-Collins shares an update on one of the organizations she is passionate about. It is a mentor group celebrating its 11 year anniversary and works with teen girls ages 13-16. This year the organization has opened a new chapter in Birmingham, Alabama that is using the Illinois model to organize a retreat for the girls.
- c. Rochelle Crump brings attention to HB 5184 Veteran Assistance Commission Act in which a County is trying to change legislation in the bill to eliminate state chartered organizations, which directly impacts her organization and leadership.
- d. Wendy Pollack brings attention to HB5029 Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program Act, she asks that people fill out a witness slip vote in favor of the bill. If people have any questions about the bill, Wendy says they can reach out to her.

VI. Public Comments

VII. Adjournment

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to adjourn at 5:13 PM
- b. Motioned by Wendy Pollack
- c. Seconded by Sylvia Matos-Collins
- d. All in favor
- e. No opposition
- f. No abstentions